

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Ronald SCHOOP Group Art Unit: (not assigned)

Serial No.: (not assigned) Examiner:

Filed: (herewith)

For: AUTOMATION DEVICE AND METHOD
FOR OPERATING SAID DEVICE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Please amend the above-captioned patent application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, cancel the three paragraphs before the title (Schneider Automation ... Description) and treat the title line as line 1 of page 1.

Page 1, line 2, insert the following new paragraph:

Field of the Invention

Page 1, line 9, insert the following new paragraph:

Background of the Invention

Page 2, insert the following paragraph before line 1:

Summary of the Invention

Page 5, cancel the paragraph at lines 10-14 and replace it with the following:

Brief Description of the Drawings

Figure 1 schematically shows an automation device according to the present invention.

Detailed Description of the Invention

Page 12, cancel the first four paragraphs (Schneider ... Said Device) and replace them with the following:

Abstract of the Disclosure

IN THE CLAIMS:

3. (Amended) Automation device in accordance with Claim 1, characterized in that the evaluating unit (46) is integrated with the module (32) into a component (34), in that the component (34) is equipped with a memory unit (44) used to store an amount of operating credit and/or a reading unit (40) for a payment card (42), and in that the amount of operating credit is automatically deducted in correspondence with the amount of operating time and/or the operations performed by the automation device (14).

4. (Amended) Automation device in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the evaluation unit (38, 46) is equipped with a calculating unit such as a calculation table, in which the operating times and/or operations are assigned corresponding debit amounts.

5. (Amended) Automation device in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the module (32) is equipped with a safety unit, which halts operation of the automation device (12, 14) as soon as the stored credit has been used up.

6. (Amended) Automation device in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that operating credit can be loaded into the memory unit (34) that is integrated in the component (34), online through the data transmission medium (16).

7. (Amended) Automation device in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the data transmission medium is designed as a telecommunications network such as the Internet or Intranet, or as a wireless telecommunications connection such as a radio pathway.

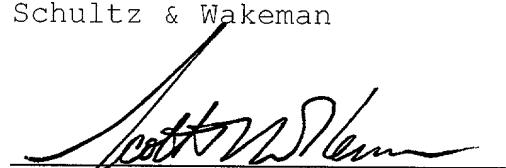
REMARKS

By the above amendment, all multiple dependencies have

been removed from the claims and section headings have been added to the specification. An action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel the paragraphs before claim 1 (Schneider ... Said Device) and replace them with the following:

I Claim:

3. (Amended) Automation device in accordance with Claim 1 [or 2], characterized in that the evaluating unit (46) is integrated with the module (32) into a component (34), in that the component (34) is equipped with a memory unit (44) used to store an amount of operating credit and/or a reading unit (40) for a payment card (42), and in that the amount of operating credit is automatically deducted in correspondence with the amount of operating time and/or the operations performed by the automation device (14).

4. (Amended) Automation device in accordance with claim 1 [at least one of the preceding claims], characterized in that the evaluation unit (38, 46) is equipped with a calculating unit such as a calculation table, in which the operating times and/or operations are assigned corresponding debit amounts.

5. (Amended) Automation device in accordance with claim 1 [at least one of the preceding claims], characterized in

that the module (32) is equipped with a safety unit, which halts operation of the automation device (12, 14) as soon as the stored credit has been used up.

6. (Amended) Automation device in accordance with claim 1 [at least one of the preceding claims], characterized in that operating credit can be loaded into the memory unit (34) that is integrated in the component (34), online through the data transmission medium (16).

7. (Amended) Automation device in accordance with claim 1 [at least one of the preceding claims], characterized in that the data transmission medium is designed as a telecommunications network such as the Internet or Intranet, or as a wireless telecommunications connection such as a radio pathway.